

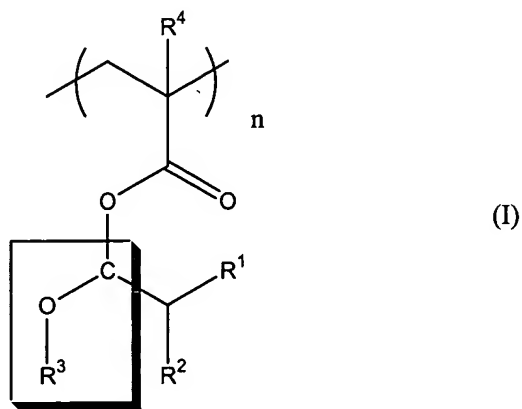
a.) Remarks

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Takechi (U.S. Patent No. 6,200,725, newly cited) in view of Meador (U.S. Patent No. 6,156,479, also newly cited).

This rejection is respectfully traversed. Prior to setting forth their bases for traversal, however, Applicants would like to briefly discuss the salient features of the present invention, *inter alia*, its patentable nature over the prior art.

According to the Examiner, Takechi teaches a chemically amplified resist comprising a photoacid generator and a film-forming polymer within Applicants' formula I, having a molecular weight of 2,000-1,000,000.

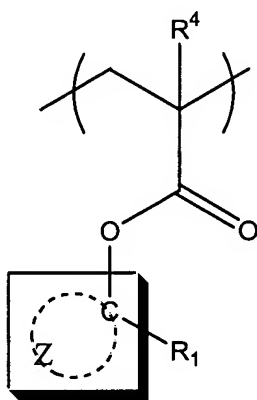
As the Examiner is aware, claim 1 of the present invention recites the polymer



wherein R³ is substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, or substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl.

The Examiner states that Takechi's film-forming vinyl polymer has the same repeating unit, where Z is oxygen, pointing to formulae XXIV-XXVI at Takechi col. 26 and col. 10, line 20.

This is wrong, however. Applicants review indicates Takechi instead shows the polymer



wherein Z represents "atoms necessary to complete an alicyclic hydrocarbon group" (column 12, lines 20-22).

The structure of the formula (I) of claim 1 is completely different from that of Takechi. Nor is this deficiency overcome by Meador, which is cited simply as showing a coating composition that uses a 2.5-10% by weight of a light absorbing dye to increase sensitivity.

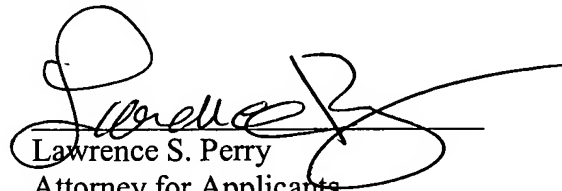
Accordingly, the Examiner has not made out a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

In view of the above remarks, Applicants submit that all of the Examiner's concerns are now overcome and the claims are now in allowable condition. Accordingly, allowance of this application and passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

Claims 1-5 remain presented for continued prosecution.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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